

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 CU-04 SS-20 SP-03

L-03 H-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

IO-14 /147 W

----- 053267

R 142110Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7315

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

PORT OF SPAIN 1159

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1030

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: UNION TO UNION PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 109621

FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY AID/W
CONCERNING EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAMS IN
EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN'S AREA OF JURISDICTION:

1. ITS'S HAVE FOR THE MOST PART SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN
BARBADOS AND ASSOCIATED STATES, AND THUS IMPACT OF UNION-TO-
UNION PROGRAMS HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY
DURING PAST YEAR WAS BRAC-SPONSORED CARIBBEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS
CONFERENCE HELD IN BARBADOS LAST SEPTEMBER.

2 & 3. EMBASSY DOES NOT FEEL IT HAS HAD ADEQUATE FACTUAL BASIS
FOR JUDGING EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE FEW ACTIVITIES WHICH DO AFFECT
THIS AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE FOLLOW-UP REPORT
FROM BRAC OR AIFLD ON WHAT LAST YEAR'S CARIBBEAN TRANSPORT
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CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISHED, OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT IT WAS IN-

TENDED TO ACCOMPLISH. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT OTHER ITS'S, SUCH AS PTTI, FITE AND PARTICULARLY IFPCW, HAVE UNDERTAKEN SOME ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA, BUT HAVE NO REPORTS TO INDICATE WHAT THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE, HOW THEY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED, OR WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. ONLY DOCUMENT WHICH EMBASSY REGULARLY RECEIVES CONCERNING UNION-TO-UNION ACTIVITIES IS ANNUAL REGIONAL LABOR PLAN, WHICH IS SO GENERAL AND GLOWING AS TO BE USELESS AS A BASIS FOR ASSESSING ITS PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

4. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, ITS ACTIVITIES IN BARBADOS AND ASSOCIATED STATES BEAR LITTLE OR NO RELEVANCE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR PRIORITIES. FITE PLAN TO ORGANIZE MUSICIANS IN CARIBBEAN, WHILE POSSIBLY A WORTHWHILE OBJECTIVE, IS HARDLY A MAJOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCERN. AGAIN, ONLY EXCEPTION OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE IS CARIBBEAN TRANSPORT CONFERENCE, WHICH PRESUMABLY TOUCHED ON SUBJECT OF CONTAINERIZATION, AN ISSUE WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY BARBADOS WORKERS' UNION AND PORT AUTHORITY AS PART OF NEW CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. 6. & 7. SINCE ITS ACTIVITIES HERE HAVE BEEN LIMITED, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE LITTLE PROBLEM THUS FAR WITH THEIR DUPLICATING OR CONFLICTING WITH AIFLD PROGRAMS.

8. IF ANNUAL ITS SUBMISSIONS FOR REGIONAL LABOR PLAN ARE ANY INDICATION, THERE IS APPALLING LACK OF BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THOSE CHARGED WITH DESIGNING AND ADMINISTERING ITS PROGRAMS ABOUT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ESPECIALLY POLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY OPERATE, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE CARIBBEAN. EVEN ALLOWING FOR USUAL DEGREE OF EXAGGERATION THAT PROGRAM DIRECTORS SEEKING FUNDS ARE INCLINED TO EMPLOY, ONE CAN HARDLY ACCOUNT FOR STATEMENTS SUCH AS THAT MADE IN IFPCW'S SUBMISSION TO MOST RECENT REGIONAL LABOR PLAN TO EFFECT THAT TRINIDAD "SEEMS TO BE THE KEY TARGET (FOR SOVIET SUBVERSION) AND COULD POSSIBLY BECOME ANOTHER CUBA." IF SUCH STATEMENTS IN ANY WAY REFLECT PRECONCEPTIONS WHICH ITS'S BRING TO THEIR ACTIVITIES, IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO US WHEN THEY BEGIN TO RUN AFOUL OF ESTABLISHED UNIONS AND HC GOVERNMENTS. NOR DOES EMBASSY CONCUR IN DRAFT PRELIMINARY REVIEW'S CONCLUSION THAT POLITICAL RISKS OF US SUPPORT, HOWEVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIRECT, FOR THESE ACTIVITIES WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY LOW. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PARANOID CRITICS OF U.S. POLICY, PARTICULARLY U.S. INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, WOULD NEITHER ACCEPT NOR EVEN LISTEN TO OUR LONG AND INTRICATE EXPLANATIONS OF WHY THE US HAS NO CONTROL OVER ITS ACTIVITIES ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ITS'S.

EMBASSY IS NOT RPT NOT AVERSE TO ENCOURAGING CLOSER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION AMONG DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS AND BELIEVES THIS OBJECTIVE CAN BE SERVED BY SUCH ACTIVITIES AS ITS SPONSORSHIP OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ON SUBJECTS RELEVANT TO THE AREA. HOWEVER, WE QUESTION APPROPRIATENESS OF SOME OF ITS ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN PRESUMED FURTHERANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE THAT IFPCW HAS LISTED AS ONE OBJECTIVE THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROCHEMICAL WORKERS IN BARBADOS. WE SINCERELY DOUBT THAT BARBADOS WORKERS' UNION, WHICH REPRESENTS ALL WORKERS IN BARBADOS WITH EXCEPTION OF TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS, AND WHICH IS POIGNANTLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, EITHER NEEDS OR WOULD WELCOME UNSOLICITED HELP (OR HINDRANCE) IN THIS AREA. FROM EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, UNION ORGANIZING BY ITS'S IN BARBADOS, GRENADA AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES IS AN INAPPROPRIATE, POLITICALLY RISKY AND PROBABLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY, AND USE OF AID FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED.
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